

THE MCGILL DAILY

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Alienating vegetarians since 1911



News—

Students' Society's daycare plans put on hold - pg. 3

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Time flies at the Canadian Centre for Architecture - pg.10

Tischler Has Head in Clouds

SSMU Prez announces cheap student travel program

BY JON BRICKER

If Students' Society President Andrew Tischler has his way, students will be paying a lot less to go home for the holidays.

Students flying to Vancouver for the holidays in December can look forward to saving a few bucks on flights home, compliments of the new program. And the program's organizers say cheaper travel will go a long way to helping cash-strapped students.

"There are a lot of students who want to go home and can't always afford it," said Yousuf Aftab, the travel program's co-ordinator. "It's definitely the best rate that's out there."

Aftab teamed up with Tischler and McGill's Travel Cuts towards December's trial. He says that they also have plans to go ahead with a travel program for the summer. He is optimistic that the program will receive a positive response, and if it does, he says, then the program will be taken even further.

Tischler says that the program also marks part of an SSMU accessibility mandate. He argues that while rising tuition makes up about 15 per cent of

the cost of being a post-secondary student, related living expenses, like travel, make up 85 per cent of the cost of going away to school. It is this cost which he says can be addressed by initiatives like the travel program.

He even related the program to SSMU's ongoing campaign against differential tuition fees. "The people who are hardest hit are those that live the furthest away," he said, describing the double hit often felt by out-of-province students, who have to foot the bill for both the differential fees, and travel to and from Montreal during holidays.

December's Vancouver trip will be offered up at \$524 round trip and all inclusive, about \$50 less than the individual student rates available through Travel Cuts, and a \$100 savings for those otherwise booking through agencies.

"Students are poor and need to save money," said Amir Motamedi, a U1 Management student from Vancouver.

But Motamedi also wondered just how successful a trial like this one would be.

"I don't know if this is the best time to

try it out," he said. "A lot of people have already booked tickets, so I don't know how well it will work."

"For summer, I think we're going to have a far better response," admitted Aftab. He said that the program is focusing on the end of the school year, when several international and Canadian destinations will be added. "We'll definitely get even better rates for summer," he said.

At last week's SSMU meeting, Tischler was also asked why dates for flying seemed so limited. Those taking advantage of the holiday discount will leave on December 21 and return on January 3, while many students who finished exams previously had hoped to leave earlier.

"The program will be more flexible with time and word of mouth," Tischler said. He said that this time around, dates were chosen to accommodate as many as possible, but that in the future, more dates would definitely be available.

Aftab also noted that the looming airline merger could make a student discount travel program even more significant. "If the merger goes ahead, and prices go up, this program would be that much more effective," he said.

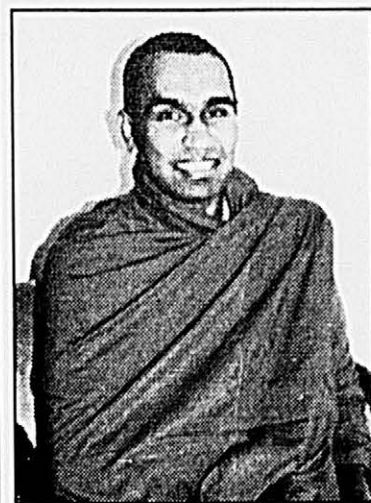
A Monk With A Cause

Bhante Wimala spreading his Lessons of the Lotus

BY SEAN MCINTYRE

According to travelling Buddhist monk Bhante Wimala, humanity is like a lotus plant, an organism which "though rising from mud and murky water, blossoms into a beautiful flower."

In his recently published book, *Lessons of the Lotus*, Wimala depicts the muddled circumstances as stemming from the subjugation of those properties which we possess as children. Wimala's lifelong goal is to promote an understanding of the benefits that spirituality and its application to daily life have to offer to humankind.



Bhante Wimala

Being raised within the framework of Western society, socialization factors such as education and the media have served to tame our innate dispositions towards concepts of honesty, curiosity, and learning. According to Wimala, the individual must essentially learn to discern the relevant priorities which guide one's actions to blossom into his or her full potential as a human being.

Speaking to The Daily from Quebec City, Wimala commented on how we have lost touch with ourselves. "Quite often, when you think about what we achieve through media in today's world, you realize that society and culture really influence who we are," said Wimala. "[It] is essential to make a conscious effort to overcome this cultural and social conditioning and the negative influence which comes from our society that only serve to take away the spirit."

Wimala's straight-forward and comprehensive account of his various journeys and spiritual revelations are an attempt to reacquaint the individual with the underlying principles of the spirit.

The book provides the reader with intriguing insights concerning the roles of pain and suffering, meditation, our relation to the environment, and the manner in

which these issues relate to a greater existence. The general tone in which such topics are handled conveys a certain degree of "self-helpism" and at times proves to challenge the reader's patience. However, the book's tone provides the novice reader with some of the central concepts of the Buddhist doctrine without overwhelming them.

Lessons of the Lotus is also a celebration of travel. The role of travel has allowed him to "observe the reality of human life and how it exists in different conditions." His travels have served to facilitate his task of realizing the common predicament that we are all facing, and he encourages others to explore this privileged opportunity.

"Travel with openmindedness, curiosity, and respect for others allows us to become closer to people," said Wimala. "We can learn from our interaction and this can help us to overcome our own selfishness. One becomes aware that there are millions of people just like me who are looking for positive relationships and happiness."

The result of Wimala's efforts are documented in a bi-annual newsletter as well as a website. Although he admits that the site is a work in progress, it provides the technologically-inclined spiritual seeker with a wide array of Bhante's poetry and audio recordings.

However, the newsletter is considered to be Wimala's primary vehicle in promoting the goals that his spirituality seeks to attain. Central issues covered in the latest issue include the plight of female ex-convicts in Sri Lanka as well as those still incarcerated, revealing the various practical applications that spiritual practice may achieve.

In support of his political and social commitments, Bhante insists that although "it is important to speak and talk about things, true spirituality requires that action be taken."

The links between social inequality and Wimala's teachings serve to reorient the stereotypical Western view of spirituality as lacking in both foundation and purpose.

Wimala readily admits that many individuals are not prepared to adopt such a view. "It is wrong to try and convince people that don't believe, but we should rather focus on those who are open-minded and care enough or have evolved to a point where they are willing to understand."

Bhante Wimala's lecture/forum will take place at Indigo Bookstore, 1500 McGill College Avenue on Tuesday, October 26 at 6:30p.m. For more info, check his website at www.solarworld.com/bhante/main.ca

The McGill Institute for the Study of Canada presents the 4th Annual Seagram Lecture

Dr. Tom Flanagan

Seagram Visiting Chair in Canadian Studies, 1999-2000 and Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Calgary

From Riel to Reform: Understanding Western Canada

From the Riel Rebellions of 1870 and 1885 to the Reform Party of the 1990s, western Canada is famous for producing new political movements and parties. Western history has created a regional political culture that gives these movements at least three common characteristics: suspicion of external control, hostility to Canada's federal parliamentary system, and a thirst for fundamental solutions. In view of this long history and distinctive political culture, it is unlikely that the Reform Party and the Progressive Conservatives will successfully recombine in a United Alternative. Dr. Flanagan will present other options for building coalitions between distinct parties.

Dr. Tom Flanagan worked as an advisor to Preston Manning and the Reform Party from 1991 to 1993, but he was fired for giving too much advice. This experience is described in his book, *Waiting for the Wave: The Reform Party and Preston Manning* (1995). Dr. Flanagan was elected to the Royal Society of Canada in 1996. His most recent publication is *Game Theory and Canadian Politics* (UTP, 1998).

Tuesday, October 26, 1999 4 to 6 pm
Room 232, Leacock Bldg., McGill University
free admission ♦♦ reception to follow

McGill Institute for the Study of Canada

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For more information, contact L. Danoch at (514) 398-2658 or ldanoch@leacock.tan.mcgill.ca



The Engineering Undergraduate Society presents:

WAR child The Lost Lennon Exhibit

You are invited to attend a collection of never before seen John Lennon and Yoko Ono photos from a photographer who spent five days in their room at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel in 1969.

October 27 and 28; from 8:30 to 4:30
McConnell Engineering Building, Ground Floor
FREE ADMISSION, Donations Welcomed
All proceeds go to War Child

Whose Child is This?

SSMU collects money for non-existent child care centre

BY JODI LATHAM

The daycare scheduled to open this September has not even been built yet, although McGill students are paying for the centre through their student fees.

The results of a 1997 referendum authorized the SSMU to charge six dollars to each McGill student for a daycare centre, slated to open in September, 1999. But despite the fact that students are paying for the services, the centre is not open, and will not be open for at least another year.

"The daycare is now planned to open for September of 2000," said Kevin McPhee, VP Operations for the SSMU. "On the schedule we're at right now, and how it's progressing, we feel that's a realistic opening date."

The postponement will no doubt come as a disappointment to students who were relying on the proposed day care for this year. "I am very disappointed. I hope that

is now, I'm paying something for nothing."

Baron also feels uneasy about the SSMU's actions surrounding the daycare. "It's suspicious-looking to have been so gung ho about it through the referendum, and then have nothing done towards it except the collection of the money. It doesn't look very good at all," she said.

But McPhee argues that they must charge students for one year in order to accumulate the initial capital needed for



Waiting for daycare?

first proposed 17 years ago, but it was dismissed as unfeasible. McGill's student parents are finally closer to seeing the project fulfilled, but not as close as they may have expected in 1997.

"Nothing was started until the referendum actually passed," explained McPhee. He said that no one had fathomed just how much work opening a daycare would entail.

Laura Leigh-Wood was the McGill student who pushed the issue to a referendum two years ago. She argued at the time that, "The present daycare is full-time and expensive," adding that, "other Canadian universities have had part-time daycare since the 1970s and

" [The] fees are being collected and we're keeping them in our bank account. "

they're not stringing the students along and are just trying to be politically correct in their efforts," said the Women's Union's Elana Baron. "It's a bit surprising since they were so adamant putting it through," she added.

When questioned about the delay, McPhee said that there was a great deal still to be done. "There is the licensing and the permits, and then there is putting together the operating budget for the daycare, which is pretty substantial." He also said they had to "find different provincial grants and subsidies that can go toward the daycare and further subsidize the amount students with children have to pay."

Despite the setback, McGill students have already begun paying three dollars per semester toward the funding of the daycare. Many students are angry about this, and wondering why they are paying for a service that doesn't exist. "I'm paying money for nothing," said Emily Johnston, a U2 English student. "I wouldn't mind paying if I thought someone was at least getting something out of it. But the way it

it to open. "Once you're up and running, you have your operating budget, and you can afford to buy and upgrade equipment. But when you're starting, you need to buy all the equipment at

" It's suspicious looking to have been so gung-ho about it through the referendum, and then have nothing done towards it except the collection of the money. It doesn't look very good at all. "

once. To afford that, the fees are being collected and we're keeping them in our bank account. When we do open the daycare centre, we'll have that money set aside already."

The idea of a daycare for McGill was

many corporations are doing it now [as well]. Quebec is the only province with no such service."

"In today's society, institutions have not done enough to allow single mothers, or women who plan on having children, to get the education they need," added Baron. "From the McGill perspective, I think a daycare would be beneficial because more women would join the university and get the education that they need. In the long run, I think both will profit," she said.

McPhee also remarked on the advantages of a daycare service for students with children. "The benefits are twofold. One, it's right on campus. [Parents] can drop children off before class and pick them up when they're finished. The other thing is that these students are in financial need, so being able to provide this daycare which is subsidized by the students at McGill, and hopefully by other sources, will ease their financial situation a little."



These kids are alright - no thanks to SSMU.

mckibbin's
irish pub

PRESENTS

LEGENDS OF HALLOW'S EVE

2. THE STORY OF JACK-OF-THE-LANTERN

The legend of the Jack-o-lantern is based on an Irish folktale about a contest between the devil and a man named Jack. As a result of tricking the devil on several occasions, and living a villainous life on earth, Jack's soul was refused by both Heaven and Hell. Stuck between the two afterlife worlds, Jack begged the devil for a burning coal, which he placed in a turnip he was chewing to light his way out of the darkness. It is alleged that he then became known as 'Jack-of-the-lantern'. To later celebrate this tale, every year folks carved their renditions of Jack's face into turnips. When Irish immigrants came to North America in the 1800's, the plentiful pumpkin replaced the symbolic turnip.



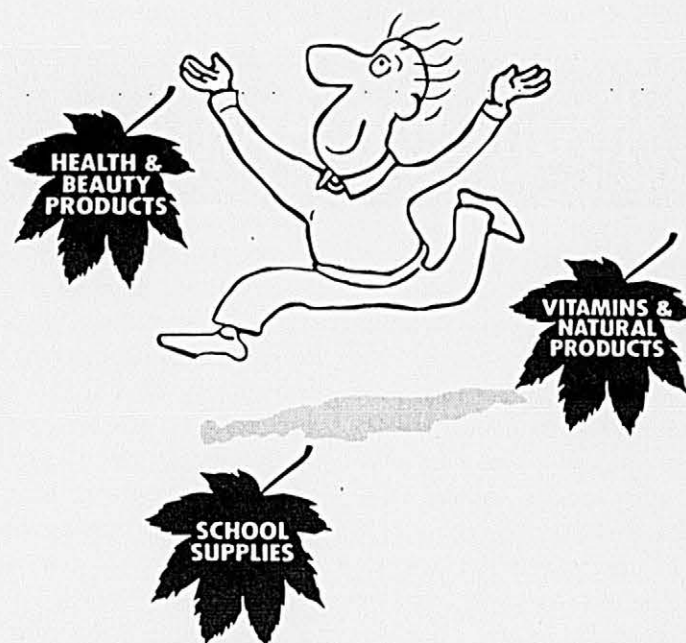
Join us for more legends next week

The last word.

Endnotes is a weekly forum of views on the news.
Mondays in the **THE MCGILL DAILY**

UNIPRIX

We have what you're looking for this autumn!



3 CONVENIENT LOCATIONS

- 1455 Peel St., Metro Level 843-7117
Les Cours Mont-Royal
- 2020 University 284-0266
Pres. Kennedy, Metro Level
- 3575 Park Ave. 849-6176
Corner Prince Arthur
Galeries du Parc (La Cité)



EDDY BISHARA
PHARMACY

Scene Locally

BY TYLER HARGREAVES

NAME: HUMBERTO 'HUBIE' SEARA, BARTENDER AT FRAPPÉ.

LOCATION: 2nd floor of Frappé, Thursday night.

TOPIC: Halloween

Daily: What was the best costume you ever had?

Humberto Seara: Last year I came dressed as a militia boy. As a kid the best costume I ever had was Spider Man.

Daily: That's pretty cool.

HS: Yeah, if you consider wearing tights pretty cool. I was like twelve years old. I didn't get much candy though. I used to do it in the neighbourhood around here and there as a lot of people whose lights were closed. Nobody home.

Daily: What about the best Halloween party?

HS: The best Halloween party was the one we had here last year. It was pretty full. It was the one year when I'd say 80 per cent of the clientele actually took the time to dress up. Even though we didn't have any door prizes. It was fun. We had a lot of older people who dressed up too.

Daily: As a kid were you a trickster or a treater?

HS: I was more a treat guy. You know,

knock on the door, gimme my candy and let's go. My older cousins would also bring me so I stayed out late. The trick was to always get out early cause at 9 or 10 o'clock most people were out of candy or so they said.

Daily: What are you dressing up as this year?

HS: I don't know. Probably an army guy again. I haven't given it a lot of thought yet. I don't have a whole lot of time cause I'm working here at the bar and taking classes at the same time. And you know we're in the middle of the mid-term phase and everything. And I doubt many of the clients here will dress up. Probably about half of them will be in costume and be here to party, and half of them will just show up to have a drink.

Daily: Obviously, the tradition has evolved over many years but when you take a step back and look at it, Halloween is a kind of strange holiday. You spend the night walking the streets knocking on strangers' doors picking up free candy. It's a little weird isn't it?

HS: Yeah. You know I started kind of late. I never went out when I was really young. I only started when I was 11 or 12 but then I did it till I was 15 or 16 so I had an alright run. I just did it cause everyone else was doing it. I suppose it is a kind of strange holiday in the big scheme of things.

Scene Locally appears Mondays in the Daily.



Pierre-Alexandre Perreault

From the Archives

10 years ago: On October 25, 1989, The Daily's Scott Stevenson reported that a province-wide strike in response to a tuition hike would not be supported by the Students' Society of McGill university. "It's not that we've taken a position on the strike. We believe the effort should start at home. But in a demonstration [at McGill to protest] where 35 people showed up, there's just not enough support," said VP External John Fox. Association Nationale des Etudiants et Etudiantes du Quebec External Coordinator Jeff Begley expressed dissatisfaction with McGill's position. "The fact that McGill is ready to negotiate the tuition hike worries me," he said.

40 years ago: On October 27, 1959, The Daily examined the growing tide of the Quiet Revolution in an editorial entitled Angry Young Men of Quebec. "[T]here is a radical 'nationalism' blooming in Quebec. It is strongly anti-Union Nationale, keenly interested in preserving French Canadian heritage, but more than this, it advocates major economic and constitutional changes in our governmental system. We rather suspect that few French Canadians over 35 embrace its programme....We cannot blame French Canada's angry young men for being angry; they have much to be angry about.... But we do blame them for espousing this new radical nationalism preached by Jean Drapeau. His theories are more than something to criticize; they are something to fear."

economic and constitutional changes in our governmental system. We rather suspect that few French Canadians over 35 embrace its programme....We cannot blame French Canada's angry young men for being angry; they have much to be angry about.... But we do blame them for espousing this new radical nationalism preached by Jean Drapeau. His theories are more than something to criticize; they are something to fear."

60 years ago: On October 25, 1939, The Daily reported that the McGill Women's Union had formulated a resolution on its policy towards the war. "We know the benefits of peace and we know that war at anytime is a catastrophe, but since our country is at war, for the defence of certain ideals and for the continuance of democracy, the loss of which would be an even greater catastrophe, let us take our part in the struggle which should be...to continue campus life in the normal fashion, maintaining our scholastic, social, and athletic activities, and, at the same time, to put a greater stress on the serious side of campus life..."

Why You're Smarter than a Chimp

Dr. Stephen Mithen explains the origin of the human mind

BY JOE MARIN

We live in a world shaped by science, coloured by art, and influenced by religion. All of these things are unique to the human mind and are shared by no other creature on this planet. How humans have been able to accomplish so much when our genetic codes are almost identical to those of chimpanzees was the subject of *Becoming Human: The Evolution of Mind and Language*, the final McGill Millennium lecture presented last Wednesday.

Dr. Steven Mithen of the University of Reading, England, started his speech by projecting a photo of a chimpanzee with a rather vacant expression on its face alongside a piece of modern abstract art and asking, "How can there be not one single glimmer of art or science or religion in the mind of our very closest living relative, the chimpanzee?"

"The human mind, as much as the human body, is a product of evolution," said Mithen. He believes that the mind is made up of multiple "intelligences," which include social, natural, and technical capabilities. Each is concerned with how beings relate to each other, how they relate to their environment, and how they manipulate physical objects respectively. Over the course of evolution, each of these intelligences evolved separately to a high level of sophistication. In early humans, however, these intelligences were strictly partitioned, making creative thought impossible.

"It was only after the appearance of our species, *Homo sapiens*, around 100,000 years ago, that these rather separate natural, social, and technical worlds became one. The consequences of that mental coalescence which culminated 50,000 years ago were extraordinary," explained Mithen.

Mithen went on to trace the path of the evolution of the human mind beginning with the chimpanzee, which he believes has a very similar mind to our ape-like common ancestor. Chimpanzees, he said, are very intelligent creatures. They have a social intelligence much like our own, exhibiting similar mother-infant interactions as well as displaying the similar male behavioural patterns of constantly jockeying for power and mates. Chimps possess a certain technical intelligence, which they demonstrate by using sticks to scrape insects out of trees. They also have a natural intelligence which tells them where to find food and which animals are dangerous and should be avoided. But despite the apparent similarities, Mithen emphasized that a great gulf exists between us and our nearest relative. "For whereas

humans create art and music, song and dance, these are things, about which chimpanzees have no inkling at all," he said.

like us, were capable of language, something else must explain our mental superiority. To make his point, Mithen cites the

“How can there be not one single glimmer of art or science or religion in the mind of our very closest living relative, the chimpanzee?”

EARLY HUMANS

Mithen then proceeded to discuss early humans such as *Homo habilis* and *Homo ergaster*, who lived between 2 and 2.5 million years ago. These creatures were an evolutionary step beyond the chimp. They had improved technical intelligence, as evidenced by their stone hand axes. They also had a more advanced natural intelligence since their habitation of harsh glacial landscapes meant that a more complex understanding of the natural environment was necessary for survival. It is also believed that they exhibited more complex social behaviour than chimpanzees.

Mithen emphasized, however, that although the minds of these early humans had advanced beyond those of chimps, they were still fundamentally different from our own species. "There is not a trace in these early humans of anything we could possibly call art, science, or even religion. They were practical, down-to-earth minded beings getting on with no more than the jobs of survival and reproduction," he explained.

Approximately half a million years ago there occurred a remarkable expansion of brain sizes, Mithen said. This led to creatures with brains as large as (and sometimes larger than) our own. The most famous of these species is the Neanderthal, "the best-known, the best-loved, and the most misunderstood of our human relatives."

Neanderthals are believed to have been capable of language. They were more socially evolved than anything before them, exhibiting family structures in which males were actively involved in child rearing. Their technical intelligence was also well developed. Flint spearheads have been found that display a level of craftsmanship equal to those produced by modern humans. Once again, however, archaeological records show no sign that these creatures were capable of art, science or religion.

Mithen argues that since Neanderthals,

design of Neanderthal spears. They tended to be short weapons that required the hunter to get dangerously close to his prey.

Homo sapiens, on the other hand, were able to combine technical intelligence with natural intelligence. They could think about making a spear and about hunting animals at that same time. This made possible the life saving innovation of long projectile spears that allowed the hunter to keep his distance from the prey.

INTELLIGENCE AND ART

Another example of this new way of thinking can be seen with the oldest known piece of art, which was created 30,000 years ago. It was a painting of a creature that was half-bison, half-human. Mithen asserts that in order to conceive of such a fantastical creature, the mind had to think about animals (natural intelligence) and think about humans (social intelligence) at the same time. Mithen accounts for the new mental capacity of humans

"Neanderthals possessed isolated multiple intelligences, whereas within the minds of anatomically modern humans the boundaries between these intelligences had collapsed. They had evolved a cognitive fluidity."

The unique ability to "bring together two incongruous ideas in our minds" also allowed us to create metaphors, which Mithen believes are "not merely products of mind but essential to communicating thoughts and advancing knowledge." To Mithen, objects of art are clay and paint metaphors for real world objects. Scientific models are physical metaphors of natural phenomena.

"Modern humans had learned how to squeeze more out of the brain than nature had intended. And that is what we are still doing today, especially those artists and scientists who continue to break the barriers of human knowledge and understanding."

Apology Granted

McPhee sorry for letter to BSN

BY SAMIRA RAHMANI

Thursday's SSMU meeting saw VP Operations Kevin McPhee apologize on behalf of the Finance Committee for a letter recently written to the Black Students' Network in which a proposal for funding was deemed to have "no direct impact on the McGill community." The apology came in response to Engineering Rep Phil Gohier's question of whether SSMU had plans to make an apology. The funding

request for travel expenses for conferences outside of Quebec was turned down after a recent decision to not fund those sorts of travel expenses. In an interview with The Daily this week however, VP Clubs and Services Sam Gross made it clear that BSN was encouraged to seek funding for February's Africana 2000 conference in Montreal under SSMU's Special Projects Fund.

"The BSN would like to hope that it is

not the position of SSMU that the inclusion of the African continent into the curriculum of this university will have no direct impact on the community," said BSN Coordinator Akinunwi Alaga.

"I'd like to make an apology," said McPhee on Thursday, encouraging BSN once again to apply under the Special Projects Fund. "[The conference] is very relevant to the community."

Our Correspondence with Danny

Calvin Klein's latest ad campaign has the same malnourished, callow youths as always, only now they have e-mail addresses! Curious to see what kind of a reply we'd get from the often-controversial advertiser, the Daily wrote to one of the addresses.

From: mcgilldaily@hotmail.com
To: danny@ckone.com
Subject: Are we supposed to buy this?

Hello "Danny,"

I guess this is postmodern advertising, slapping an email address on the heroin addicts. At what point am I supposed to be overcome with the desire to buy perfume?

Best Regards,
The Daily

From: danny@ckone.com
To: mcgilldaily@hotmail.com
Subject: The good life.

Making good bucks. I'll definitely be able

to get to Florida for spring tryouts. I love being out on my own. I got a good pad with these grrrrls, G. They mother me. I don't mind if they call me little danny and pinch my cheeks as long as the sweetness keeps coming. Tristesse, my roommate's friend, means business I think, she's just waiting for the others to not be watching her that's all.

I work five nights, the other two I go out, all by myself. Looking around the city, looking for trouble, and not finding much.

I miss home though. Dad said Lenny's still pretty pissed. Moms talked to him, but it didn't help much. With the money I'm making, I think I might be able to pay him back by Christmas.

but man, I really don't want to.

SEE-YUH!

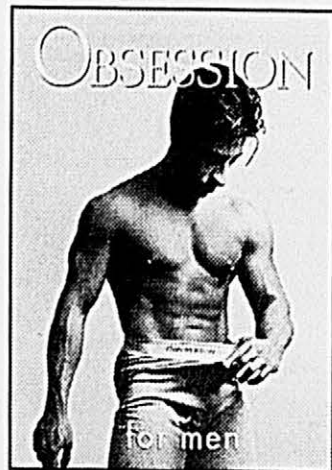
D-man

From: mcgilldaily@hotmail.com
To: danny@ckone.com
Subject: huh?

D-man,

What the hell are you talking about? Is this how the kids talk these days? And speaking of kids, care to comment on the kiddie porn ads from Calvin Klein a few years back? Admit it, that was entirely intentional. You guys thought you'd be cutting edge by pretending to be pedophiles.

Best regards,
The Daily



From: danny@ckone.com
To: mcgilldaily@hotmail.com
Subject: Honey away from home

well, cuz, i did it. i split town, and let me tell you it is a big wide world out here. i am in philly, staying with Jared's sister. she's nice, got me another barback job, so i could help out with the rent and bills. trying at saving my dough. baseball is on hold for a while until I get some more traveling money. i am hoping to be in florida for the spring tryouts. for now, philly is cool. don't know nobody, but there's lots to look at.

moms is freaking out, but pops sent me \$200 so I could buy a tuxedo shirt, and some pants, and shoes too, for work. I look too stupid, but it's all about the benjamins, yo.

I just sent an e-mail to anna, so don't worry about that anymore. she knows where I am. she was freaking out too.

brotherly love all over the place,
D-man

If you don't want to hear from me again, title your reply "get lost" and I'm outta here.

From: mcgilldaily@hotmail.com
To: danny@ckone.com
Subject: You are a computer.

Hey D-man,

You're right. It is all about the benjamins, or the roberts as we say up here. This must be the cheapest ad campaign ever; figure out what the kids talk about, program it into the computer, and spit out random bits to anyone who emails you. The sad part is there's probably lonely people out there who think you're real and try to have meaningful conversations with you. Here's a test for you: if someone actually reads these emails, send something back that's relatively coherent.

Best Regards and insincere platitudes all over the place,
The Daily

THE MCGILL DAILY

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C o m m e n t

Supreme Court Denies Mumia Appeal
Pennsylvania Governor Ridge signs death warrant

By TAL PINGHEVSKY

"Given the tone and tenor of recent Supreme Court opinions, there is even a sense of relief that they didn't grant my third appeal. And the trend is increasingly in favour of the State, the trend is increasingly to disfavour the defendant and the accused. Certainly there are exceptions, but that's the undeniable trend, the expansion of state power in the retractions of prisoners' rights."

This passionate political statement, made on October 4, was taken from death row inmate Mumia Abu-Jamal upon receiving the news that his most recent appeal for a new trial in the case of the murder of Philadelphia police officer Daniel Faulkner had been denied by the United States Supreme Court. Following the decision, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge signed Mumia's death warrant, scheduling his execution for December 2nd, 1999. In hindsight, the authorization of this glorified murder was simply another misappropriation in the case of a man, sentenced to death, who has yet to have an opportunity to sufficiently defend himself.

For those not already acquainted with his case, Mumia Abu-Jamal was a former member of the Black Panther Party as well as an award-winning journalist who, in 1982, was convicted of a crime in which he has since maintained his innocence. Tens of thousands of activists, including such high-profile personalities as actors Whoopi Goldberg, Ossie Davis, and former French First Lady Danielle Mitterand, have marched on Mumia's behalf protesting the numerous judicial flaws plaguing his first trial. Even Congressmen Chaka Fattah and John Conyers, speaking on behalf of the entire 38 Member Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), have concluded that "justice can only be served through a new trial for Mumia Abu-Jamal."

With time being absolutely crucial in the case, numerous protests have been held all over the world, including the demonstration held last Saturday in Montreal, where ralliers called for a government stay of execution for Mumia.

Mumia's attorneys, Daniel Williams and Leonard Weinglass (the latter a defence attorney from the 1969 Chicago Seven trial), upon hearing of the Supreme Court's decision said, "Mumia was unquestionably stripped unjustifiably of his right to represent himself. Yet, at the very moment that the trial began, Mumia's right to handle his own case was taken from him and the case placed back into the hands of his incompetent defence counsel who did not even expect that he would be trying the case. When Mumia refused to sit in silence as his rights were being read, he was forcibly removed from the trial proceedings."

Throughout the course of Mumia's stay on death row, the power of his ardent supporters has had immense effects on his case. In fact, Mumia's last stay of execution was inspired by the massive demonstrations that took place internationally in his defense. Since the signing of his death warrant, Mumia has been moved into the watch area of the Waynesburg prison, in which he resides, cutting off entirely his access to the outside world.

It is fairly ludicrous to think that, despite support from high-standing members of judicial and political institutions around the world, Mumia Abu-Jamal remains on death row and is actually facing a very real prospect for death in the next few weeks. Included among his high-profile supporters are Nelson Mandela, French President Jacques Chirac, and members of the German Diet. At the grassroots level, recent demonstrations of 30,000 people in Philadelphia and 16,000

in San Francisco show the undeniable strength of this human rights movement.

Local efforts are being further emphasized in and around McGill. There is a series of planned initiatives taking place following this past Saturday's downtown demonstration. According to Sylvia Liertz, a local Mumia activist, "There was a meeting of the Free Mumia Coalition on October 16 evening and it was really well attended. The demonstration will be followed in the week after by an information session, because, what we found, while petitioning on the streets, was that a lot of people don't actually know about Mumia."

Free Mumia Coalition member Raphael Cohen emotes a semblance of hope in saying, "The fact of the matter is, because Mumia and his lawyers filed for habeas corpus two days after the death warrant, the law states that a stay of execution must be granted. With other prisoners who have had their death warrants signed and their lawyers file anything in court, usually a stay of execution is granted that very same day. The same thing happened in 1995 when the original warrant was signed. Mumia's lawyers were filing in the courts a day or two later and the Governor went out of his way to sign the warrant and intimidate the movement into thinking that was that. The judge waited until ten days before the execution date before signing a stay."

Congressman Fattah clearly outlines the grave injustice being committed by both the Pennsylvania and United States governments in the case of Mumia Abu-Jamal. Regarding Mumia's most recently denied appeal, he said "The only thing we know for sure is that he has not been given due process, and that alone is enough for a new trial."

Those interested in learning more about this cause can contact the Free Mumia Coalition at 844-3207.

Travesty of Justice

Mumia Abu-Jamal is currently petitioning for habeas corpus relief. Filed two days after the signing of his death warrant, the 30-point, 60-page petition outlines the flaws plaguing Mumia's initial trial. Included in these claims are:

- The state manipulated two key eyewitnesses to falsely identify Jamal as the shooter.

- The Commonwealth failed to disclose government political surveillance files demonstrating longstanding police bias against Jamal, violating the 5th, 8th, and 14th amendments.

- The court impermissibly restricted the elicitation of material evidence favourable to the defence, again in violation of the 5th, 8th, and 14th amendments.

- Jamal's jury was drawn from a pool that was composed in violation of the 5th, 8th, and 14th amendments.

- Jamal's constitutional rights were violated by the prosecution's use of his teenage affiliation with the Black Panther Party to argue for the death penalty.

- Jamal was sentenced to death due to the constitutionally impermissible factor of racial discrimination in violation of the 5th, 8th, and 14th amendments.

Nice to Meat You... Nice to Mmmmmmmmm EAT YOU!

An Introduction to the Montreal Smoked Meat Scene

BY JUDA STRAWCZYNSKI

Montreal is truly defined by three things: The Habs, the drivers, and the smoked meat.

In this survey, I chose to go for the protein. I have carefully selected the Final Four among Montreal's smoked meat establishments (chosen solely on the basis of name recognition). For those already die-hard meat-a-sauruses, I can assure you that there are dozens of other delis and smoked meat shops to frequent on the island. For now though, allow me to introduce you to...

THE MAIN

The Main on St. Laurent has been grilling things up charcoal style for 27 years. For \$5.70 you can get a smoked meat sandwich and fries for take-out. After placing this order, I saw a couple of friends sitting down to dinner. They invited me to join them for a while. I sat down and opened up my greasy bag of fries. A waiter instantly rushed over to inform me that "take out is to be taken out. Please leave." I suggested serving my take-out on a plate. "I'm sorry sir, you must go now." Nothing quite like service with a smile.

After being ejected from The Main, I sat down to eat my dinner. My bag of fries was reduced to mush from grease, and the fries themselves were greasy and soggy. In other words, they were unacceptable. Fries can be greasy and crispy, but sogginess is just not cool. The Main sandwich was equally disappointing. The meat was beautifully soft, but nobody bothered removing the fat from the edges: mounds of peppercorn laced with pure white fat. Ugh. The pepper and French's mustard combined to make this sandwich a particularly potent case of bad breath in a bag.

SCHWARTZ'S DELI

The first time I tried to hit this place, it had a line-up out the door. I decided not to bother. I should have waited. I ended up at the Main that night.

Second time through, our timing was right. We waited a few minutes, which gave my quasi-vegetarian friend enough time to realize that the peppered slabs in the window weren't chunks of tofu as I had lead her to believe. The line moved too quickly to give her a chance to escape.

We got a table in the back of Schwartz's, sitting next to two complete strangers. Cool! Schwartz's Charcuterie



Photos by Céline Heinbecker

Hebraïque, is truly like one big family traditional Friday night dinner, except that Schwartz's isn't kosher and instead of challah bread, there are two slices of rye with slabs of meat thrown between them.

We placed our orders and I had a moment to take in the scene. This place is the real thing. Waiters are swarming, the charcoal oven is working hard, and there's a line-up out the door. The gum-ball machine is an ACME model, the staff are fast and efficient, and they serve Cherry Coke (so if you can't wait for the

walls are adorned with photos and reviews, paintings, and other artwork based on the Deli. There are even Schwartz's t-shirts available for \$9.95. A sign on the wall reads, "When I die I wanna go to Schwartz's."

Is this heaven? If so, I pity my veggie friend who only ordered coleslaw and a side of fries. She said she was happy because they had Heinz ketchup, but I was ten times happier because my smoked meat sandwich, served with fries and whatnot for \$6.35 plus tax was a gem. The meat was thinly sliced and not too fatty. My only complaint is that it could have been a touch warmer. The pepper added to the flavour without stealing the show, the mustard remained in the background, letting the meat come forward in its entire carnivorous splendor! It may be a good idea to remove some of the meat from the sandwich, but I dove right in. My jaw exercises have paid off. I devoured the first half of my sandwich before even thinking of working over my fries.

And the fries were good in that crispy kind of way. There is nothing but goodness at Schwartz's, but plan ahead for a line-up.

BEN'S

All right, hold up a minute. So Ben's tells me they're a legacy. They get 500,000 customers a year? Did I miss something here? The Ben's de Maisonneuve location was virtually empty. Somebody was smoking a cigarette by himself in the corner. A couple was sitting down on the other side of the restaurant. We sat down, and thus

brought the total number of clients to about even with the number of staff present.

Maybe I should back up. Ben's has been around since 1908 when Ben (the restaurant's founder), fled the oppression of Europe to feed the masses ici à Montreal. Pamphlets suggest that the story of their founder and the development of their establishment reads like a classic movie. If so, it's more like the ones that everyone talks about but had never seen. Going to Schwartz's will give you a good enough idea of what smoked meat is all about.

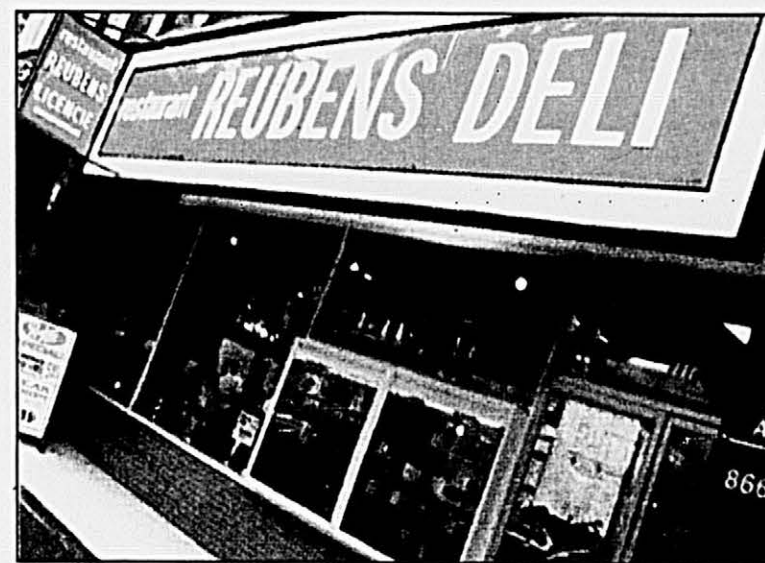
I ordered my smoked meat sandwich and side of fries. Two seconds later my platter arrived. Excellent service! As I dove into my delicacy, I observed the Ben's Wall of Fame. Iron Maiden stared back at me. Rock on! The others were has-beens and people my parents would admire, like all the pictures of the Montreal Canadiens from their glory days. Ah, back in the days when Ben's was probably glorious too.

But back to the food. My sandwich, priced at \$3.95, was brought in its most humble manner, no mustard. Ben's had given me the right to decide the fate of

Reuben's just isn't sure what sort of image it wants to project. As my friend suggested, "it's got 50s era signs, but a 70s era style. What a weird mix!" It gets weirder. Kernatzel sticks hang behind the cash to add to the decor. Elegant plants and a stained glass ceiling bring a touch of class to this place, but you need to ask for a key to go to the washroom, leaving you wondering if you can also collect Petro Canada points when you eat. But image isn't everything, and food is!

I was a little surprised at first when my meal came. My toasted rye bread appeared to be buttered. A devilish voice inside of my head told me it would be better not to think about it, so, hoping for the best, I dug in. Bliss. Hot smoked meat, served up hot enough to remain hot even after you've gone to explore your French fries for a few moments. My colleague and I didn't talk as I tackled my sandwich - the sign of a truly good meal. There was a problem though. My platter of smoked meat, amazing fries, coleslaw, and a pickle, all for only \$5.95 plus tax, a little unsatisfying. As I suspected, there was not enough red meat in my sandwich.

I bent the rules a bit at Reuben's. To



my own sandwich, very appropriate. The fries were good at \$1.65, but nothing exceptional. Not a bad sandwich, but nothing incredible and, for some reason, I left Ben's feeling hungry. Good thing that Reuben's is a couple of blocks away!

REUBEN'S

You can find Reuben's at various locations down St. Catherine Street. I decided to go to the St. Catherine-McGill College location. Before entering, I was confronted by a mighty decision: take the stairway to the heavenly Commensal, home of healthy vegetarian cuisine or plunge down through the red neon signs to the devilishly delightful Reuben's. May all of your decisions in life be as easy as that one!

satisfy my hunger, I splurged for a cheesecake. Sorry, that's "The Cheesecake." I'm talking about strawberry glazed, dense, rich, oh my god. I just put on 30,000 calories and loved every moment of it. As Louis Armstrong put it, "Cheesecake gobble gobble cheesecake gobble gobble cheesecake."

As I was digesting my meal, I couldn't help but notice how comfortable the place is. The seats are perfect - we're talking Lay-Z Boy quality here. Things are relaxed. We took our time eating and the waitress gave us ample time to recover from our feast. If you're looking for a power-lunch that is good for the soul in that bad sort of way, then check out Reuben's.

And so, getting to the meat of it all: Schwartz's reigns supreme on Saint-Laurent and Reuben's beats Ben's by TKO.

North America, Europe Split Over GM Standards

Concerns spreading in Canada over GM food

BY ZACH DUBINSKY

While Europe is in a furor over genetically modified foods, we Canadians have calmly accepted them into our diets. There are several factors that account for this, but mostly, say opponents of the biotechnological invasion, it's that we don't even know GM is here.

Ever since GM foods arrived on the Canadian market in 1995, they have enjoyed a relatively liberal regulatory process. In the European Union, GM foods must be accepted by each member state's relevant authority before they can be grown or sold in the EU. The U.K.'s authority is a committee composed of independent industry, and government scientists as well as consumer representatives. In Canada, two government bodies make all the decisions. And while the EU maintains strict labeling laws that give consumers the option of avoiding modified foods, in Canada, labeling remains the voluntary choice of producers.

"It makes me unbelievably furious that this is going on and that we expect decisions to be made in the public interest," said nutritionist Elisabeth Sterken of the Infant Feeding Action Coalition Canada. While Europe, Africa, and most of Asia have fought at the international level for worldwide mandatory labeling of GM foods and stan-



Minister of Agriculture Lyle Vanciel
dards for organic ones, Canada and the U.S. have resisted, calling the EU's labeling laws a trade barrier and threatening to bring them to the attention of the World Trade Organization. Consequently, Sterken predicts that a two-tiered food system will develop in North America.

"One tier is going to allow all the technological gizmos, preferably with little information to the public, and non-labeling," she

explained, noting that organic foods would constitute the other tier. "Those who are able to afford it and those who are knowledgeable will be able to choose that type of food," she said.

Federal Agriculture Minister Lyle Vanciel is responsible for the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, the government body that regulates GM foods. Vanciel maintains that Canada has "the most sound regulatory process for the review of [GM foods]." He justifies this by affirming that "If there's any question whatsoever [about the safety of a product], if all of the answers are not given, then the product is not registered."

But recent events undermine Vanciel's assertions. Just last year, a Health Canada report found that human safety concerns were repeatedly overlooked by the federal government's Health Protection Branch in its tests on a growth hormone slated for use in dairy cows.

A senior scientist at Health Canada agreed with Monsanto Inc., the hormone's manufacturer, to circumvent "normally required long-term toxicology experimentation and tests for human safety." Five months later, six scientists at Health Canada complained to a labour board that despite their concerns about the safety of the hor-

none, they were being pushed to approve it. The scientists also said that their superiors had commanded them not to bring the issue to public attention.

Minister Vanciel also believes that we should be allowed to make our own decisions about what we eat. In an interview last May on CBC's This Morning, host Avril Benoit asked the Minister if people "have the right to refuse food they don't want to eat."

"They have the right," responded Vanciel. "They don't have to pick it up off the shelf. No, they don't have to. They have that right. They certainly do. And that's an individual decision that they have."

But asked about his position on Canada's current lack of labeling laws, which makes it impossible for consumers to exercise that right, Vanciel contradicted himself. "My position on labeling is what we have at the present time in Canada. The producers and marketers of food can put on the label anything they want."

Perhaps the scariest moment in the interview came when Vanciel stumbled when Benoit asked whose interests Vanciel thought came first, those of the biotech companies, or those of consumers.

Vanciel replied, "The safety... neither one... well, the people."

GM LAWS IN EUROPE

European Union laws governing the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) were first elaborated in October, 1990, when all EU nations adopted two directives. Since then, three more laws have been introduced:

The first directive (90/219/EEC) governed the use of GMOs in enclosed factories and breweries. Here GM yeast, for example, is employed in the baking of bread and the distilling of alcohol.

The second directive (90/220/EEC) permitted field trials and, if these proved successful, the commercial marketing of agriculturally grown GMOs, subject to case-by-case approval from a relevant nation's authority. European farmers could now plant GM crops.

In January, 1997, EU nations passed a third law, the Regulation for Novel Foods and Novel Food Ingredients (EC 258/97). The Regulation sets the standard for GM food sold to consumers. It demands that all GM ingredients be safe, do not provide less nutrition than the ingredients they replace, and not be presented so as to mislead the consumer.

Applications to market new GM foods in an EU nation are made to that country's designated body, but each EU member must approve the application before a novel food can be sold.

Two labeling regulations followed. The first was vague and ineffective. Partly because of mounting pressures at home, Britain pushed for and won a more comprehensive Labeling Regulation. The new law (EC 1139/98) came into effect on September 1, 1998, with these terms:

- covers all GM soya beans and GM maize sold to EU consumers as food or food ingredients (does not cover animal feed or the products of the animals that eat it)

- only applies if final product contains modified DNA (does not apply to unmodified food products obtained from modified organisms)

- only applies to foods introduced to market after November 1, 1997

- demands that stipulated items carry labeling having "a typeface of at least the same size as the list of ingredients itself" and specifying either in the list of ingredients or in a footnote "produced from genetically modified maize or soya."

Controversial Potato Research Published

But second paper even more damning

BY ZACH DUBINSKY

The Hungarian-British plant researcher who sparked the U.K. toxic potato crisis over a year ago has published his controversial paper in the British medical journal The Lancet.

Dr. Arpad Pusztai announced to viewers of Britain's World in Action television program on August 10, 1998, that biotechnology companies were using them as "guinea pigs." He was highly criticized for publicizing his results before they had been peer-reviewed, which is the standard audit of research in academic science. Pusztai affirmed recently in a CBC interview that his work had been submitted for publication to The Lancet.

Just last Saturday, the academic journal published the research article written by Pusztai and his colleague Dr. Stanley Ewen, a pathologist at the University of Aberdeen.

"Publication of Ewen and Pusztai's findings is not, as some newspapers have reported, a 'vindication' of Pusztai's earlier claims," wrote Lancet editor-in-chief Richard Horton.

"On the contrary, publication of a paper after substantial review and revision provides a report that deserves further scientific attention."

Horton explained that six independent reviewers had audited Pusztai's work, including a human pathologist and a plant molecular biologist. "Some advised rejection; others encouraged us to go ahead and publish." Ultimately, Horton wrote, the journal published the paper to ease frustration in the scientific community that Pusztai's results were unavailable for wider appraisal.

One reviewer's comments summarized the situation. Though they noted that Pusztai's data were "flawed," the reviewer also expressed that "I would like to see [this work] published in the public domain so that fellow scientists can judge for themselves... If the paper is not published, it will be claimed there is a conspiracy to suppress information."

Pusztai and Ewen's article details experiments performed on rats fed diets of normal

and genetically modified potatoes. They found that the GM potatoes, which were engineered to produce an insect-repelling protein called a lectin, caused deformations in the rats' small intestines. The authors attributed the harmful effects to presently undiscovered complications that may arise from genetic engineering.

"Genetically modified plant products are becoming increasingly common in the human food-chain," they wrote. "Yet in contrast to the general acceptance of the need for the biological testing of novel foods and feed-stuffs, few studies have been carried out on the possible effects of GM products on the mammalian gut."

In conclusion, they noted that the harmful effects could also occur in other GM plants, such as soya beans, if they contained similar genes.

The Lancet also published a second paper by four Scottish crop and nutrition scientists whose research is unrelated to Pusztai and Ewen's. The experiments of Brian Fenton, Kiri Stanley, Steven Fenton, and Caroline Bolton-Smith found that the plant lectin GNA - the same lectin Pusztai and Ewen examined - binds to human white blood cells. The ingestion of GNA could therefore have unknown and devastating consequences for health because white blood cells are essential to the human immune system.

"This work highlights the need for a much greater understanding of the interactions between plant lectins and human glycoproteins [the binding site in cells] before they can be safely incorporated into the food chain," concluded the scientists. Despite this, they noted

alarmingly that the lectin could find its way unabated into our food: "GNA is however under consideration and transgenic plants expressing GNA have been constructed."

Members of the McGill community can access the articles at The Lancet online, available from any computer connected to the McGill network, including by DAS. The internet site is <http://www.health.library.mcgill.ca/launch/lancet.htm>.

ON THE WEB

- www.cfia-acia.agr.ca/ - the Canadian Food Inspection Agency is the federal government body that approves GM foods.

- radio.cbc.ca/news/biotech/ - Canada's national broadcaster maintains a page with interviews and reports on genetic engineering.

- www.gmissues.com
- www.home.intekom.com/tm_info
- gmworld.newscientist.com

- www.royalsoc.ac.uk/rs_repts.htm - the Royal Society's site contains the leading U.K. scientific group's reports, including Scientific Advice on GM Foods, GMOs and the Environment, and a review of the data from Dr. Pusztai's experiments.

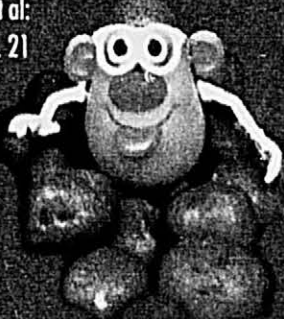
- www.freenetpages.co.uk/hp/a.pusztai - Dr. Arpad Pusztai's homepage

Part 1:
The GM food score in the UK and Europe - Oct. 14

Part 2:
The science and side-effects of GM - Oct. 18

Part 3:
Monsanto, Novartis, et al: the GM industry - Oct. 21

Part 4:
On Canada: are GM foods safe? - Today





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Scorsese's *Bringing Out The Dead* *liven's up the screen*

BY LUCAS STANCZYK

The night screams with the biting cries of a New York City ambulance racing along the streets of a sleepless Manhattan. Street-side reflections illuminate the two indistinct faces of its weary, but mechanically alert occupants. Neither loses sight of the corrosive sense of humour that allows him sleep, if but for an instant. All are charged with confronting in a very personal way the dead and those not far behind.

Directed by Martin Scorsese, *Bringing Out The Dead* stars Nicolas Cage as the EMS paramedic Frank Pierce. Pierce, the nocturnal incarnation of an urban dweller, borders on the verge of total physical, emotional as well as spiritual collapse. Deeply affected by years of ambulance service on the virulent streets of Manhattan, he tries to stay afloat, however desperately, in a sea of self-developed anguish. Only the caustic sarcasm, with which he attempts to make banal the heart-wrenching horrors and the shattering guilt that he feels, gets him through the day. At night, he returns to the bloody screams, the silent gasps, and the pungent taste of the surreal environment that forms his destructive reality.

His midnight companions, the fellow paramedics played by John Goodman, Ving Rhames, and Tom Sizemore, show different sides of the experience. Compared with the totally exposed and

the constant cruelty and suffering to which he is a witness.

Amidst all struggle for the faith that becomes increasingly bleak—a struggle against the anonymity of the city and the infectious violence of suffering—Pierce finds a slight glimmer of hope. Mary Burke, played by Patricia Arquette, is the young daughter of the man whose life Pierce attempted to save. He wants to help someone and this desire is exacerbated by his month long streak of corpses-on-arrival. In this girl Pierce finds the potential for redemption through straight-forward sincerity of human interaction.

Martin Scorsese, director of over twenty-five films including *Taxi Driver*, *The Colour of Money*, *Goodfellas*, and *Casino*, recently



Nicolas Cage and John Goodman

received the AFI Lifetime Achievement Award. Scorsese is known for that very forceful penetration of the quintessentially modern, yet particular experience that his films depict.

The screenplay for *Bringing Out The Dead* was written by Paul Schrader, who also wrote the screenplays for Scorsese's *Taxi Driver* and *Raging Bull*. The story is

an adaptation of the memoirs of Joe Connelly, who spent nine years as a paramedic in Hell's Kitchen, Manhattan.

The film presents a shock-filled and overwhelming experience, though it lacks the satisfaction of a denouement. Perhaps in looking for such immediate gratification, it is easy to miss a more profound, reflective satisfaction.



Nicolas Cage in *Bringing Out The Dead*

penetrable Pierce, who has no spiritual filter between himself and the suffering, the character of Larry (John Goodman), deals with the endless ordeal only through detachment. Fried chicken in hand, he jokes sardonically about last night's cardiac arrest, perfectly unruffled. Whereas Ving Rhames' Marcus places all at the hands of Christ and utterly resigns himself to The Divine Authority that dictates the circumstances of his work. The Sociopath Tom Walls, played by Tom Sizemore, reciprocates

THE FATE OF THE WORLD RESTS ON THE COURAGE OF ONE WARRIOR

PRINCESS MONONOKE

GILLIAN ANDERSON BILLY CRUDUP CLAIRE DANES MINNIE DRIVER BILLY BOB THORNTON JADA PINKETT SMITH

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PRESENTS

LEGENDS OF HALLOW'S EVE

3. THE EVENING OF MISCHIEF

On October 31, the ancient Celts masqueraded to deceive the many spirits who occupied the thin veil of chaos on this, the Celtic New Year. To ensure good luck in the coming year, candles were lit and offerings of food and drink were left in each window to welcome and honour the hungry ghosts of relatives passed on. Those refusing to respect the dead might find their dwellings disturbed, and bad luck thrust upon them. These events helped to shape the modern customs of dressing up in costumes and shouting 'trick or treat'. This night still belongs to the spirits, so be sure to disguise yourself...



CELTIC NEW YEAR

Join us for more legends next week

Putting a Price on Time

CCA's latest exhibit heavy on ideas

BY JULIA APOSTLE

From down the hall, even before entering the Octagonal Gallery at the Canadian Centre for Architecture, you can hear the rhythmic beat-keeping of a ticking chronometer. It isn't too fast, nor is it too slow, just under a beat per second, making you consciously aware of time slipping away. And of course that's the point. The CCA's latest exhibit, Cedric Price: Mean Time, represents this British architect's attempt to develop the complex relationship between time, movement, and space using the CCA's own collection.

Price has been called "one of the most challenging and witty provocateurs in the field." He wants to force us to look at what architecture is, and then suggest radical ideas of what it could be. Price believes there are ways of gauging the apparent unpredictability of time and responding to it, where even "the speed of a total lifespan can be measured... the fourth dimension can thus be introduced to design." If design does not achieve distortions of time, distance, and size then it is likely to be merely an "elaboration of the status quo."

And since the exhibit is about an idea, a perspective, and even an argument, its layout is structured accordingly. In the antechamber of the Octagonal Gallery are numerous statements printed on the walls, laying out the premises of Price's position.

For example, "Shortage of time is likely to become an increasingly large element in the conscious design process: not merely achieving a particular means but even in deciding whether there is time to bother

designing such a means." And from Alice in Wonderland, "Well in our country," gasped Alice, "you'd generally get to somewhere else — if you ran fast or a long time as we've been doing."

"A slow sort of country," said the Queen. "Now here you see it takes all the running you can do to keep in the same place. If you want to go somewhere else, you must run at least twice as fast."

There is also a legend on the wall that the viewer has to look at before entering the Gallery, because if not, they will be lost as to what is going on inside the exhibit. The legend entitled 14 Ways to Look at Time, consists of 14 pictograms with each one's meaning printed next to it. For instance, a burning candle symbolizes "self-destruction," two flying pigs represent "anticipating the impossible," a man waving little flags stands for "synchronization," a pair of dice represent "uncertainty," and so on. This legend is there because, according to another quote on the wall, "Most people observed spent from 5 seconds to 1 minute reading text about a work and from 2 seconds to 15 seconds glancing or looking at the work." Price anticipates this by not including text with any of the works on display, just the symbols.

After all the build-up, the display becomes anti-climactic, but is nonetheless complete. All around the eight-sided room are photographs of buildings, books, posters, displays, architectural blueprints, and samples of industrial design. Having already set the argument for the relation-



Cedric Price

ship between time, space, and movement, this part of the exhibit provides the supporting evidence. An etching depicting plans for a British manor circa 1722, and accompanied by a photograph of the completed manor, in the 1970s, gets the chronometer symbol, representing "intervals." Photographs of revolving doors are given the symbol of a man jumping over hurdles, to symbolize "pacing." A large black and white photograph of the McGill student ghetto, with a smaller picture of an

enormous high-rise complex inserted on top of the neighbourhood (from an era that predates digital manipulation) is given the symbol of a closed umbrella, which stands for "prediction," a tribute to the eyesore that is the La Cité complex.

The classification scheme might be a bit arbitrary. What Price calls a structure or design that favours the pacing of time could also be used to synchronize time. But this seems somewhat irrelevant. The point is to make us think about the objects and

scenery of everyday life in ways we aren't accustomed to by accenting their relationship to time. Although Price includes some of his own architectural plans in the exhibit, mostly as examples of "reconstruction," it isn't his work that is the focus of the show. Rather, it's an idea.

Cedric Price: Mean Time is on display at the Canadian Centre for Architecture 1920 rue Baile, Montreal. 939-7000, \$3 for students

Whimsy Wins Over the "Ultramodern"

Exhibits at Circa delight and frustrate

BY MARGOT BERRILL

The newest exhibits at the Centre de l'exposition d'art contemporain (Circa) are best described as frustratingly enjoyable.

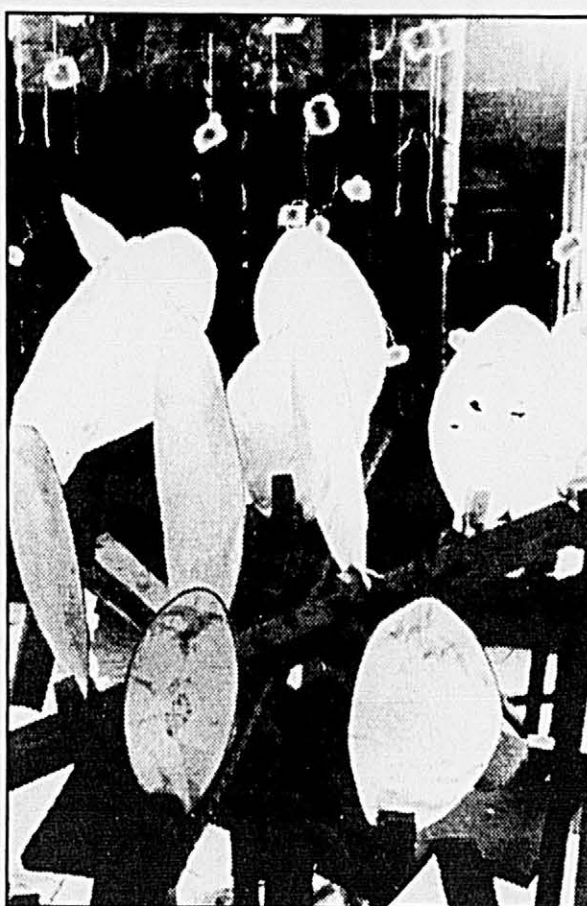
The gallery is split into two shows, offering audiences two reactions. The large gallery space is showing Les Leçons de (la) Peinture, by Martin Desilets, which consists of about 10 large paintings, most of which have writing on them. Statements such as "Illusion...is the essence of painting," and "Il y a dans la peinture quelque chose de plus, qui ne l'explique pas, qui est l'essentiel," cover the canvasses in large block printing. Each of the paintings is supposed to refer to a specific artist such as Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Nicolas Poussin, or Maurice Denis. On initial glance, the paintings seem inaccessible and abstract, but given a little more thought they are presumptuous.

In the hope of finding more satisfaction with the work, The Daily spoke

with the artist, Martin Desilets. When asked if the work was supposed to be postmodern, Desilets responded that he has a problem with the idea of postmodernism, relegating it to a concept of modernity, and prefers to call his work "ultramodern."

Right. Ultramodern. This was not the kind of explanation that I was hoping for. Instead of becoming more interested in the paintings, I became overwhelmed by the artist's pretentiousness -- his intentions seemed to focus on impressing me with his wit rather than with his work.

Regardless, there is some enjoyable and



Reparations by Serge Murphy

thought-provoking art in the exhibition. Reparations by Serge Murphy is being shown in the secondary room of the gallery. It is a large installation-type sculpture made out of wood, paper, wire, cotton balls and other materials you'd probably find in the garage. Reparations seems to fill the small room to capacity even though there is plenty of space to walk around.

Speaking with Murphy was fun. The artist was down to earth and laid back, unlike Desilets, who seemed to take his work way too seriously. Murphy talked about his improvisations in art, his attempts to show chaos and to "draw in space" with fragile and precarious materials.

He described Reparations as a mental landscape of "solid aerial and sky," and said that it all started with a feeling. This is art that I can relate to. Murphy's piece is whimsical and allows for a multitude of interpretations.

While I can't recommend the entire exhibition at Circa, Murphy's work is worth seeing. Even though it is only a single piece, Reparations makes for an interesting show, bringing up ideas of space and boundaries, and demanding that the viewer participate rather than passively view the works.

Take the rest of the exhibition with a grain of salt. The redemption is in the little room to the side.

Les Leçons de (la) Peinture will be at Centre de l'exposition d'art contemporain, 372 St. Catherine West #444, until November 13. For info call 393-8248.

daily classifieds

Ads may be placed through the Daily Business Office, Room B-07, University Centre, 9h00-14h00. Deadline is 14h00, two working days prior to publication. McGill Students & Staff (with valid ID): \$4.75 per day, 3 or more consecutive days, \$4.25 per day. General Public: \$6.00 per day, or \$5.00 per day for 3 or more consecutive days. Extra charges may apply, prices include applicable GST or PST. Full payment should accompany your advertising order and may be made in cash or by personal cheque (for amounts over \$20 only). For more information, please visit our office or call 398-6790. WE CANNOT TAKE CLASSIFIED ADS OVER THE PHONE. PLEASE CHECK YOUR AD CAREFULLY WHEN IT APPEARS IN THE PAPER. The Daily assumes no financial responsibility for errors, or damages due to errors. Ad will re-appear free of charge upon request if information is incorrect due to our error. The Daily reserves the right not to print any classified ad.

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...endnotes

MSF WINS NOBEL!

Former SSMU President Duncan Reid's heart must have skipped a beat when he heard the news; the MSF was recently awarded the Nobel Peace Prize! "Wow," he must have thought, "I knew the McGill Students' Fund was a great idea, but to put me on par with Mandela? This'll definitely get me into law school!" Unfortunately for Reid, the MSF in question were those pesky Medecins sans Frontiers. Better luck next year. -Ben Errett

WE'RE THE BEST?

As publicised in an ad in last Thursday's Globe, a recent Gallup poll asked over a thousand Canadians which university they would rank as the best in Canada, and McGill came out on top. This might seem really strange to those who have actually visited McGill lately, but it just goes to show how long a good reputation can last. Hopefully, something can be learned from the Eaton's fiasco before the erosion of McGill is complete. -Jaime Kirzner-Roberts

QUEBEC TO SEPARATE AND JOIN...CALIFORNIA?

Premier Lucien Bouchard was preparing for the week of his life. A meeting with the editorial board of the Los Angeles Times and a speech before the Los Angeles World Affairs Council could have given him the chance for some gratuitous and shameless Quebec promotion. Then the PQ got concerned about emphasizing sovereignty too much (quel dommage) and spent \$2,700 to have the invitations to the speech reprinted to remove the emphasis on sovereignty. The minuscule crowd ignored the speech and went for the kill on the questions: "Is Quebec basically an independent country that needs UN recognition?" "When will you hold another referendum on sovereignty?" Etcetera. Which makes me wonder; if this whole separation thing is such a problematic issue, why doesn't he just drop it altogether? -Zach Dubinsky

Celebrating an Artist's Life and Music *Chopin remains influential 150 years later*

BY DAVID PODGORSKI

When you think of a famous pop star, the name of Frederic Chopin is probably one of the last that comes to mind. It should then come as a surprise to learn that the concept of the superstar was in part defined by a short, gangly, classical musician.

Born in 1810 to a Polish middle-class family, the young Chopin was a child prodigy, giving his first public performance at the age of 9 and composing his first piano piece at the age of 12. At 21, he left Poland for Paris, hoping to make a name for himself as a performer. He toured extensively around Europe, and was soon known as a virtuoso with his own individual style of playing.

One aspect of Chopin's personal life which lives on in infancy is his relation-

ship with Georges Sand, a famous author and feminist. Known as a bohemian and drug-user (and, it was rumoured, a lesbian), Sand gained notoriety for divorcing her husband and running off to pursue the life of an artist. The two parted in bitterness four years before Chopin's death, but the young virtuoso never forgot his lover, crying for her even on his deathbed.

As a composer, Chopin wrote exclusively for the piano, and took the instrument to new heights. Although he only wrote 122 pieces, each one stands out as a Romantic masterpiece. Many require a player with a high level of technical ability, and each composition treats the solo instrument as a full orchestra.

Chopin's most important cultural

contribution lies in more than just his music. He was one of the first in a generation of musicians to find fame among a concert-going public, rather than seeking patronage from the nobility. As a result, artists everywhere could seek support from fans everywhere, rather than making their work an elitist pursuit. He was, in a very real sense, one of the first pop stars.

The poet of the piano has been honoured in commemorative concerts all over the world this year, and his songs will be remembered for their complexity as well as their beauty. As an artist, he will be known as a shy but passionate man who was gifted with a unique ability to express his deepest emotions through music.

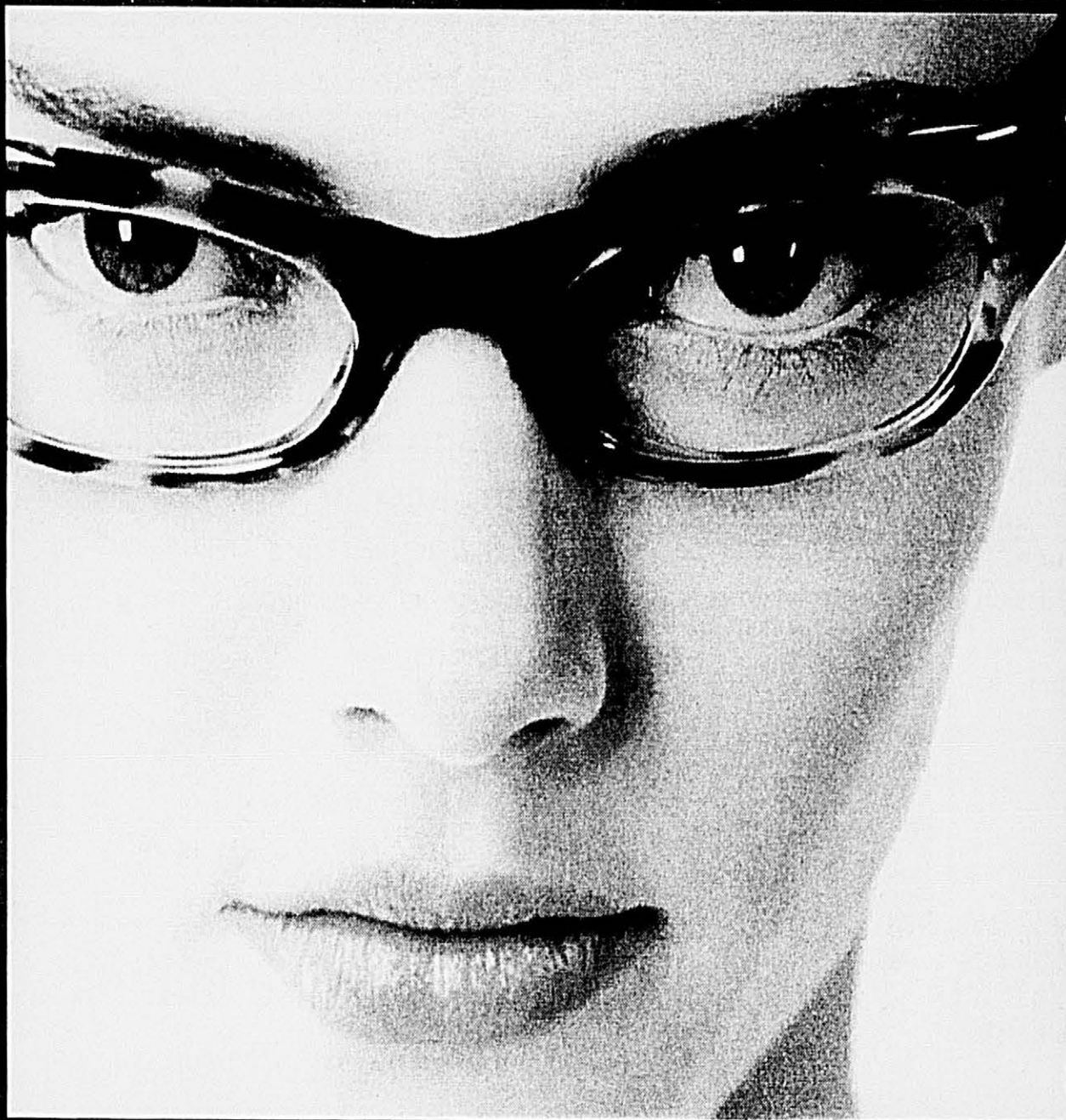
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